

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the claims that were published in the PCT Application and the claims submitted with the Article 34 response:

1. (currently amended) A method (300, 500, 600, 800)—for controlling an apparatus having an emergency alert function, comprising steps of:
 - detecting a first condition wherein signal strength on a selected channel associated with said emergency alert function exceeds a threshold (610);
 - detecting a second condition wherein a broadcast test associated with said emergency alert function is passed, said broadcast test including detecting reception of a test signal that is broadcast on a scheduled periodic basis (805, 815, 830); and
 - providing an output if said first and second conditions are detected.
2. (currently amended) The method (300, 500, 600, 800) of claim 1, wherein said broadcast test includes determining whether said test signal includes a user selected location code associated with said emergency alert function.
3. (currently amended) The method (300, 500, 600, 800) of claim 1, wherein said test signal is broadcast on a weekly basis.
4. (currently amended) The method (300, 500, 600, 800) of claim 1, further comprised of:
 - tuning a plurality of channels associated with said emergency alert function (310); and
 - identifying one of said channels having higher signal strength relative to said other channels as said selected channel (310).
5. (currently amended) The method (300, 500, 600, 800) of claim 4, further comprised of using said selected channel to receive emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function (320).

6. (currently amended) The method (300, 500, 600, 800) of claim 1, further comprised of:

providing a first output message (700) if said first condition is not detected (650); and

providing a second output message (900, 1000, 1100) if said second condition is not detected (825, 840, 860).

7. (currently amended) The method (300, 500, 600, 800) of claim 6, wherein said first and second output messages each indicates a corrective action.

8. (currently amended) An apparatus (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

processing means (27) for detecting a first condition wherein signal strength on a selected channel associated with said emergency alert function exceeds a threshold, and for detecting a second condition wherein a broadcast test associated with said emergency alert function is passed, said broadcast test including detecting reception of a test signal that is broadcast on a scheduled periodic basis; and

first output means (30) for providing an output if said first and second conditions are detected.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus (20) of claim 8, wherein said broadcast test includes determining whether said test signal includes a user selected location code associated with said emergency alert function.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus (20) of claim 9, wherein said test signal is broadcast on a weekly basis.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus (20) of claim 8, further comprising:

tuning means (22) for tuning a plurality of channels associated with said emergency alert function; and

wherein one of said channels having higher signal strength relative to said other channels is identified as said selected channel.

12. (currently amended) The apparatus (20)–of claim 11, wherein said tuning means (22)–tunes said selected channel to receive emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus (20)–of claim 8, further comprising second output means (29)–for providing a first output message if said first condition is not detected, and for providing a second output message if said second condition is not detected.

14. (currently amended) The apparatus (20)–of claim 13, wherein said first and second output messages each indicates a corrective action.

15. (currently amended) A television signal receiver (20)–having an emergency alert function, comprising:

a processor (27)–operative to detect a first condition wherein signal strength on a selected channel associated with said emergency alert function exceeds a threshold, and to detect a second condition wherein a broadcast test associated with said emergency alert function is passed, said broadcast test including detecting reception of a test signal that is broadcast on a scheduled periodic basis; and

a visual indicator (30)–operative to provide an output if said first and second conditions are detected.

16. (currently amended) The television signal receiver (20)–of claim 15, wherein said broadcast test includes determining whether said test signal includes a user selected location code associated with said emergency alert function.

17. (currently amended) The television signal receiver (20)–of claim 16, wherein said test signal is broadcast on a weekly basis.

18. (currently amended) The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, further comprising:

a tuner (22)-operative to tune a plurality of channels associated with said emergency alert function; and

wherein one of said channels having higher signal strength relative to said other channels is identified as said selected channel.

19. (currently amended) The television signal receiver (20) of claim 18, wherein said tuner (22)-tunes said selected channel to receive emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function.

20. (currently amended) The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, further comprising a display (29)-operative to provide a first output message if said first condition is not detected, and a second output message if said second condition is not detected.

21. (currently amended) The television signal receiver (20) of claim 20, wherein said first and second output messages each indicates a corrective action.